MONTEREY NEWS

September 2007
VOLUME XXXVII · Number 9

The Town

Rep. William "Smitty" Pignatelli and Sen. Ben Downing attended the July 30th meeting of the Select Board. The hour-long meeting covered a broad spectrum of topics, including missing county maps and road surveys. Concerning these, Rep. Pignatelli suggested contacting the Registry of Deeds in Pittsfield as well as possibly contacting Gene Galvoni, a 30-year veteran of county surveying. Funding assistance for the town salt shed was discussed, and it was suggested that the town look into Mass. Highway funds to help defray the cost. Broadband access was also discussed, and Rep. Pignatelli suggested the Town form a Broadband Committee. Jon Sylbert asked if there was any way to find out the amount of money that leaves the county in income tax and how much comes back. Sen. Downing said he could get that information. Rep. Pignatelli felt we probably get more than we give.

(The boat ramp was also discussed; see below.)

Bathers, Boaters, & the Beach

Even though summer is winding down, the beach, boats and beach patrons are still a top priority with the Select Board. Pat Rodriquez came in to commend the Park Commission for their prompt response to her concerns about the condition of the beach and surrounds. Sand has been added and fences repaired.

There have been several close calls between swimmers and boaters at the beach/boat ramp during "after hours," i.e., when no lifeguard is present, prompting a letter of concern from Mark Makuc to the

Edie Ross

Strolling and checking out the scene at LakeFest 2007.

Select Board and the Park Commission. In response to the letter, Leroy Thorpe, Chair of the Park Commission, stated that he feels the beach is closed to swimming from 6 p.m. to 10 a. m. and that if swimmers use the beach for swimming it is at their own risk. The Select Board met with Mark, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus (the Harbormaster), and Deputy Harbormaster Dean Amidon to discuss this ongoing situation. Dean has been telling boaters that they can launch and remove their crafts when no swimmers are present, either early morning or late evening. He believes most if not all boaters were lake dwellers or townspeople, not transient boaters. It was proposed to add a sign stating that there is no launching of boats while swimmers are present. However, later that morning Valerie Zantay of the Park Commission came in and pointed out that there is already a sign present stating that there is no launching during the swimming season, period. A suggestion came from Dan Moriarty that a sign be put up with specific hours listed that boats could be launched, perhaps with supervision.

Boaters and bathers need to have the same clear set of rules to avoid any mishaps and the Select Board will discuss this matter further.

Boat Ramp Update

Discussions such as the previous one may become moot if the Boat Ramp Committee is successful in finding a workable solution to the present untenable one. At both the July 30th and the August 13th Select Board meetings, the boat ramp acquisition process was discussed. At the July 30th meeting, which both Representative William "Smitty" Pignatelli and Senator Ben Downing attended, a brief history of the beach/boat ramp situation was presented, up to the recent sale of Kinne's Grove, eliminating that private source of access to Lake Garfield by individuals as well as the Environmental Police for the purpose of policing and stocking the lake. At the July 30th meeting the Boat Ramp Committee (BRC) was in the process of identifying all possible sites around the lake.

Terry Smith of the Office of Fishing and Boating Access attended the August 13th meeting, along with Rep. Pignatelli and a dozen interested citizens. Smith recalled the Access board's long history with Lake Garfield, including the construction of the dam thirty years ago. He also said that his office has documents showing that the town beach was supposed to be located across the street on Brewer Pond (and several residents agree that the boat ramp should stay where it is and the beach should be moved). Smith characterized the Access board as a small agency responsible for facilitating public access to bodies of water by providing engineering and permitting assistance. According to Smith, any site would ideally have parking for 10 vehicles and 15 trailer spaces. (They use a formula stating there should be one space for every 10 acres of lake: Garfield is 275 acres, so 27 trailer spaces would be standard, but Smith said that 15 would be acceptable.) The site can be long and narrow but it must have state-required setbacks from both sidelines. Also, the slope of the land should be conducive to development.

At the moment the Access board is not funded for purchasing property; any money they have is for construction purposes only. Smith did suggest that Mass Wildlife might be able to fund a purchase. Both Sen. Downing and Rep. Pignatelli said they would help the Town with the process. All that remains is to find a parcel that fits the parameters.

The Boat Ramp Committee has identified a small parcel on the western end of the Thorn property that appears to be the ideal candidate, and the Select Board is hoping to start a conversation with the Thorn family to see if it is feasible to acquire this site.

The Select Board set October 15 as the date to have all boats out of Lake Garfield for the winter.

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Animal Control Officer

Several Select Board meetings have included discussion of the Animal Control Officer's duties, procedures, communication or lack of, and response time (ditto). In late July concerned citizens reported to Melissa Noe, Interdepartmental Secretary, sighting an injured animal along Main Road. A call was placed to Animal Control Officer Nora Hayes. Noe was advised on the following day that the animal was still there. An e-mail was sent out to Chief Backhaus, Director of Operations Maynard Forbes, and the ACO. Backhaus and Forbes responded, found an injured coyote, and put the animal down. Forbes, Noe, and Backhaus all expressed concern that the ACO had not responded to the call. Similarly, the ACO could not be reached to respond to a barking dog complaint or to a dog-bite incident. Chief Backhaus acknowledged problems with the pager used by the ACO, but e-mail and phone messages were also used.

John Makuc of the Board of Health came in to discuss the situation, as the Board of Health supervises the ACO. In collaboration, the Select Board, Board of Health, Police Department, and Interdepartmental Secretary agreed to the following procedure to contact the ACO. First the ACO will use a pager provided through County Dispatch. Pages would go out to both the ACO and the Police Department. If there is no response from the ACO within 15 minutes to acknowledge the page, a second page will go out. If there is still no answer from the ACO, the Police Department will respond to the call. An acceptable response time to a call was deemed to be 8 hours except in the case of a dog bite, which needs an immediate response. In the case of a rabid animal, the Police Department should be called first since a timely response is essential to contain a potentially dangerous situation. The paperwork associated with a rabid animal response is still the responsibility of the ACO. Additionally, the Police Department will respond to calls concerning road kill.

Edie Ross

At the benefit Lobster Fest for the Berkshire Fish Hatchery.

School Budget

On August 6, the Select Board met with Dan Moriarty and MaryEllen Brown of the Finance Committee to discuss the school budget issue resulting from Sheffield's withdrawal from the alternative budget assessment agreement that has been used for several years by the five towns of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District. Jon Sylbert is writing the state Department of Education asking them to disapprove the renegotiation of the existing agreement and using the statutory assessment method. In the meantime, the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Town Accountant agreed to make a 1/4 payment ($202,213.25) based on the figure approved at the May Town Meeting using the alternative assessment method.

The Select Board agreed to have a Special Town Meeting on Friday, September 7, to revise the school budget for FY 2008 based on the statutory assessment method, which increases Monterey's share. However, the Select Board and

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Finance Committee will not recommend approving the revision. (See p. X.)

Police Department Blotter

Officers responded to three motor vehicle accidents and two disabled vehicles around town; several false alarms, including one at Town Hall; a complaint of gunfire on Hupi Rd., which came from a legal firing range; a speeder by the beach (a lifeguard was able to write down the tag number, and the driver was found and spoken to); illegal dumping on Cronk Road (the dumper was found, and the items were disposed of properly); a complaint of a barking dog; a dog bite on Hupi Rd.; ATV complaints on Bidwell, Main and Beartown Mountain Roads; an eviction assistance on Fox Hill Rd.; a spill of an unknown substance off Bidwell Rd. that ended up in Lake Garfield (a sample was taken and given to the Board of Health).

Highways

Director of Operations, Maynard Forbes reported the progress of the Sandisfield Road paving project. The paving is complete and the Town Highway crew is filling in the shoulders of the road.

He also alerted the Board to the need next year of replanking the New Marlborough Road bridge.

Fire Departmet

Fire Chief Ray Tryon met with the Select Board in response to concerns expressed by neighbors of the Cusik house on Lake Garfield, which is being offered to the Fire Department for training purposes. Tryon said that any complaints should be made in writing, but assured the Board that before any burning of the structure was to take place the neighbors would be notified and would have the opportunity to voice concerns and objections. If the whole structure were to be burned down permits would need to be obtained from DEP (Department of Environmental Protection). For training purposes, small, controlled fires and artificial, nontoxic smoke are used so the firemen can study fire behavior in a controlled environment. The Fire Department does not need permits for this action. When the department is finished with the building it would be torn down and properly disposed of.

Other Lakes

Lake Garfield isn't the only body of water on the Select Board's radar. Dan Moriarty informed the Board that he is heading a committee to find long-term solutions to the flooding issues at Lake Buel.

— Deborah D. Mielke

From the Assessors
187 Pieces of Green

Monterey is a magnificent collection of 1308 real estate parcels that range in size from 0.01 acres (NYNEX-owned) to 4575 acres (Beartown Mountain State Forest). Of these, 187 parcels are especially important because they contribute so mightily to the rural and green character of this town. They are the parcels that are either tax-exempt (owned by governmental or not-for-profit organizations), have deeded conservation restrictions, or are in Chapter 61AB programs. They represent virtually all the land that is permanently or temporarily restricted from real-estate development. It is these parcels that give Monterey its wonderful character and magnificent vistas. We have created a color-coded map that dramatically illustrates the size, type, and position of these 187 parcels. The map can be seen at the Town Hall or on the Board of Assessors website. It also can be obtained in PDF format at higher resolution by emailing a request to ralazz@verizon.net. Unfortunately, the pictorial information cannot be presented here and we must be content to use only tabular data.

The first table shows the major land holdings among the tax-exempt real estate owned by governmental and not-for-profit organizations. Beartown Mountain State Forest by itself accounts for 28 percent

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Tax Exempt Land in Monterey

Berkshire Natural Resources	575 acres
Beartown Mt. State Forest	4575 acres
Monterey Preservation Land Trust	619 acres
Gould Farm	566 acres
New England Keswick	406 acres
The Bidwell House	197 acres
The Fish Hatchery	70 acres
All Others	151 acres
TOTAL	7159 acres

Summary of Conservation Restricted Land

Tax-exempt lands	75 parcels	7159 acres
Private lands w/ conserv. restrict.	29 parcels	908 acres
Chapt. 61 (Forestry)	25 parcels	1003 acres
Chapt. 61A (Agriculture)	42 parcels	1384 acres
Chapt. 61B (Recreational)	16 parcels	356 acres
TOTAL	187 parcels	10,810 acres or 65% of Monterey

of Monterey's area. Nonetheless, the land holdings of Berkshire Natural Resources, Monterey Preservation Land Trust, Gould Farm, and the Bidwell House are very substantial and in addition reveal the immense generosity of the Monterey citizens who donated the land to those organizations. The summary view of the contributions of the three classes of real estate—government/not-for-profit owned, parcels with deeded conservation restrictions, and parcels in Chapter 61AB programs—is shown in the second table. The data show that fully 65 percent of Monterey's area is development restricted—an astonishingly large portion. Further, the map reveals that the land preservation extends to all parts of the town. Taken together, the two tables illustrate that private individuals, acting alone or through not-for-profit organizations, have invested heavily in maintaining Monterey's rural character and have preserved 37 percent of its area (the difference between the 65 percent total and the 28 percent contribution of Beartown Mountain State Forest).

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts rewards landowners that place lands in conservation by assessing those lands at a greatly reduced value. For example, lands with deeded conservation restrictions and lands in Chapter 61B (recreational) are assessed at only 25 percent of the value they would be if not in conservation. An even more dramatic discount of 95 to 99 percent is given for lands in Chapter 61 (forestry) and 61A (agriculture). Thus, very little tax revenue is generated by the lands listed in the tables and, to a first approximation, the entire tax burden of the town is carried by the 35 percent of Monterey's real estate that does not participate in land conservation programs. However, the increase in tax burden is very small because only undeveloped land can be put into these programs and those land parcels ordinarily have small assessed values. Consequently, placing them in conservation programs just reduces the already small assessment. The total assessed value of all Monterey properties in 2007 was $484 million. This number would be increased by approximately $20 million or about 4 percent if no land was in Chapter 61AB programs. Furthermore, that estimate is the worst-case scenario that only would be achieved if no one ever took property out of the programs. When properties are removed from Chapter 61AB programs, the owners must pay back the tax advantages they obtained while in the program, up to a maximum of ten years. In addition, the roll-back taxation includes 14 percent interest. Thus, these programs only impact on the town's tax picture if properties remain in the program for more than ten years.

Monterey taxpayers may pay up to 4 percent more taxes because of these programs, but the trade-off is that they live in a town where 65 percent of the land is temporarily or permanently restricted from development. What a remarkable situation!

— Bob Lazzarini

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Sept. 7 Special Town Meeting

The Monterey Select Board has scheduled a Special Town Meeting at the Monterey Firehouse on Friday, September 7, at 7 p.m. The following articles will be brought before the meeting:

ARTICLE 1. To see if the Town will vote to accept the Right-To-Farm bylaw, on file at Town Hall, which encourages the pursuit of agriculture, promotes agriculture-based economic opportunities, and protects farmlands within the Town of Monterey by allowing agricultural uses and related activities to function with minimal conflict with abutters and Town agencies, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $4,922.28 or any other sum for work done in FY07 for the repair and replacement of the access doors to the town hall meeting room to comply with ADA requirements, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 3. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of $68,852.00 or any other sum for the corrected net operating budget for 2007–2008 as recertified by the Southern Berkshire Regional School District using the statutory method of assessment, or take any other action relative thereto.

The Select Board and Finance Committee do not recommend approving this article.

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LakeFest 2007: A Perfect Day for Monterey!

The excitement escalated early on August 11. Our Hatchery, as in previous years, kicked off LakeFest with a kids' fishing contest, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. As the clock closed in on the deadline, Eric Lomaglio, age 11, of Lenox, clung to first place with his catch, a $14^{1}/_{2}$-inch rainbow trout. A scant half-inch behind, in second place, was the 14-inch rainbow trout caught by Ryan Dion, also age 11, of Pittsfield. But, as Yogi said, "It ain't over 'til it's over." With mere minutes left in the contest, August Hachman, age 7, of where else but Monterey, wowed the crowd by hauling in a big, brawny brown trout. How big, you ask? Would you believe $28^{1}/_{4}$-inches? (That's about half the size of young August) The trout strained the scales at 6 pounds, 8 ounces! This day belonged to Monterey.

And what a day it was! The weatherman gave us a not-too-anything, perfectly glorious day. The sun shined. The beach buzzed with activities. Smiles of kids with painted faces proved quite contagious. Sandcastles sprung up with luxurious lakefront views. And what a wondrous mural little hands drew!

Hundreds of your neighbors basked in free motorboat, kayak, and canoe rides. Lake Garfield sparkled, reflecting the high spirit of the day. All afternoon, children with cameras (courtesy of FLG) photographed LakeFest through the eyes of kids (see following pages).

Five o'clock rolled around, and so did Roger the Jester (Roger Reed) who, without a word, mesmerized our young ones, and many adults, as well, with his bag of tricks and his fabulous, friendly facial expressions.

All the sun, fun, and fresh air worked up some urgent appetites, as you'd imagine. To the rescue came the LakeFest Potluck Dinner, an endless array of everything from luscious salads, to delicious side dishes, to entrees the likes of sumptuous sliced steak, cooked to perfection. A separate station offered free hot dogs and hamburgers to all. Last stop on this culinary excursion was an alluring assortment of sinfully divine desserts.

At 7:00, Roger the Jester packed up and the Big Bear Band roared in with the inimitable David Grover, the very merry Terry A La Berry, and groovy Kathy Jo Grover. You name it, they can play it. It's said David's repertoire includes 10,000 songs. The Big Bear Band had us all clapping hands, tapping toes, and dancing in the aisles with musical morsels from Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Peter, Paul & Mary, Paul Simon, the Carpenters, the Beach Boys, and a Beatles medley of 24 songs played in less than three minutes. And more! All the while, marshmallows roasted on an open fire that flickered on joyful kids' faces.

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At 9:00 a "boom!" brought all eyes to the sky for LakeFest's most dazzling display of pyrotechnics ever … exploding rainbows … neon waterfalls … cascading kaleidoscopes … and when it seemed it could get no better, the finale rocketed to new heights.

LakeFest 2007 came to you courtesy of the Friends of Lake Garfield with the support (financial, emotional, and physical) of our Town of Monterey. It could not happen without the passion and hard work of numerous neighbors, for whom the time has come to thank. Let's start with the Fishing contest. Thank you Leroy Thorpe, George Emmons, and Mr. & Mrs Phil Gunzinger for all your hard work. Kudos to Ginny Allentuck & friend Arlene for painting some fabulous faces. Robin Fried, with a hand from Carol Huston, did a super job setting up and cheering on the construction of sandcastles. And hooray to Mayra Rodriguez for her mastery in supervising the kids' mural drawing; a masterpiece it was! To our motorboat captains who gave free rides to over 150 people (even though gas prices are so pumped up), we salute you Richard Edelstein, Randy Gelbard, Paul Gelbard, Mark Cash, Barry Jaffe, Richard Jaffe, Doug MacTavish, Hy Rosen, Steve Schwartz, David Shifrin & Elliot Small. Thanks to Fran & Dean Amidon, and granddaughter Nicole, whose dock provided a safe port for our boatmen and whose efforts kept cruises running smoothly. Our appreciation to those who volunteered their kayaks and canoes for free rides—and to Lisa & Stu Auslander, who helped launch and land riders, many of who were first-timers. Good job you two; no one was lost at sea.

A round of applause to Jean Germain for conceiving "LakeFest Though the Eyes of Kids" and to both Jean & Edie Ross for motivating our youth, distributing and collecting cameras, and having prints made. Julio Rodriguez served up and set up a waterslide. Thank you, Julio—and thank you, son Pablo, for manning the LGA sales table and keeping everyone aware of goings on with blasts of the bullhorn. A stack of accolades goes to Pat Edelstein, chairman of the LGA Ecology Committee (hey, that's our main mission!) and to Sue & John Schmerler, committee members who with Pat manned the FLG how-to-take-care-of-your-lake ecology table.

A humongous hurrah goes to the crew that helped make the Potluck Dinner such a success; Myrna Rosen, Pat Edelstein, Kathy Frome, Judith Friedman, Jean Germain, Nanette Hucknall, Carol Heimann, Judy Kamenstein, Margo Golos-Reines, Donna Putrino, Sue Waldorf & Cheryl Zellman. A big, juicy thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Del Martin, with assistance from Brian Puntin (who also carted supplies from the General Store and carted off trash), for grilling up the best burgers and tastiest hotdogs this side of the Pluto. They sure were smokin'! As was Bob Rausch, who built a cool campfire and had a watchful eye as kids roasted marshmallows. Great job, Bob, as always! Much appreciation to our clean up crew of Judith Kamenstein (Junior), Judith Friedman, and Eve La Belle & friends. Bravo to our entertainers, Roger the Jester—and take a big bow, David Grover & The Big Bear Band. You blew us away, again.

A heartfelt 'thank you' to Ray Tryon & the Monterey Fire Department and to Gareth Backhaus & the Monterey Police Department for keeping all safe and sound. And let's not forget our General Store's Kenn Bassler, without whom we could've gone hungry. And listen to this! As if Kenn has nothing else to do, he volunteered to raise the money for our LakeFest fireworks. Had he not done this, there may have been no fireworks. Kenn's plan was to find 10, or so, donors who would give $500 each. So far, Kenn has only 6 people who have stepped up. If you'd like to help pay for that fabulous display we enjoyed, Kenn would be more than delighted to receive your check for $500. I'll bet he'd even accept a lesser amount. Whaddaya say, for Monterey? (It's tax deductible, made out to the Town of Monterey.)

As you can imagine, organizing LakeFest and assembling the vast cast of volunteers is no easy task. To Julio Rodriguez, our new FLG President and to his wife Pat Salomon, FLG steering committee member, we owe you a standing ovation for shouldering the bulk of the work necessary to make this year's LakeFest happen. (Thunderous applause, please.) And what a perfect job you did!

Now I must take time to apologize. For sure, one night this week, I'll sit straight up in my bed at 3:00 a.m. and as hard as we all tried to not leave out any "thank you's," a name or two will appear in front of my eyes in six-foot blazing letters. Whoever you are, we appreciated your help. Heavens knows we're sorry we missed thanking you!

Since a few friends unhappily missed LakeFest because of previously made plans, here's plenty of notice. For the next hundred years, or so, LakeFest will be on the second Saturday in August. For 2008, that would be August 9. Write it down—and while you have your pen out, the FLG meetings at the firehouse will be at 9:30 a.m. on the first Saturday of summer months: June 7, July 5, & August 2.

Now you can turn the page and see the fabulous photos of LakeFest captured by Monterey's youth. Yeah, Monterey!

— Hy Rosen

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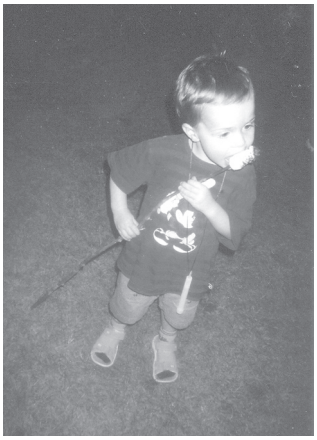
LakeFest through Kids' Eyes

As part of the August 11th LakeFest, Friends of Lake Garfield (in this case Jean Germain and Edie Ross) distributed cameras to 21 children ages 4 to 13 to see what their images of LakeFest would be. Jean and Edie plan to produce a color poster of many of the photos, to be displayed on I Love Monterey Day. Look for it. After seeing what the kids had come up with, Jean said, "What talent! Our next generation of Ansel Adamses." The photographers' names are listed under their photos.



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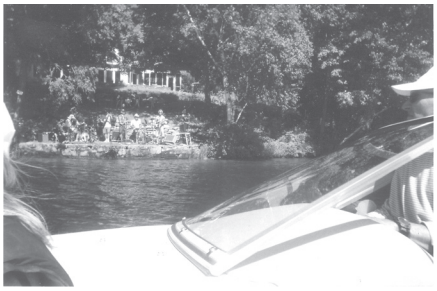

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September at Bidwell House

September events at the Bidwell House Museum will feature local naturalists, historians, and an engineer for guided trail walks and a workshop on how fire was used in eighteenth-century colonial Massachusetts.

The first nature and history guided walk will be on Saturday, September 8, at 10:00 a.m. Guests should plan on a two-to-three-hour walk through the historic Royal Hemlock Trail. Dr. Richard Greene of Tyringham will lead guests along a path in the footsteps of the earliest Indian and colonial inhabitants and wayfarers on the land.

Reflecting a change of dates from the original program, Saturday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m. will feature Del Martin, an engineer from Monterey and owner of Del Martin Automotive, who will be joined by his father, Del Martin of Vermont, in a demonstration of the uses of fire in a presentation called "From the Hearth to the Forge." Starting in the Keeping Room with the essential colonial tool, the "tinder box," the Del Martins will move to the grounds of the Bidwell House and portray several ways of making fire without matches. A discussion of the role of the blacksmith and forge will follow within the two-hour workshop.

Guests on the 29th are urged to bring a picnic lunch and join local historian George Emmons at 1:00 p.m. for the Annual Walk to the Meeting House. The site was memorialized in the 1920s by a stone marker installed by the Daughters of the American Revolution at the first Meeting House for Housatonic Township No. 1, which later become Tyringham and Monterey. Emmons will place the Congregational Church and the Bidwell House at the demographic center of the earliest population. Guests should plan on an hour walk and dress appropriately.

For further information on the September events and directions to the Bidwell House, please call 413-528-6888 or visit the web site at www.bidwellhousemuseum.org. Suggested donations for the Bidwell programs are $10.00 for members and $15.00 for nonmembers. The Bidwell House Museum is a not-for-profit historic house museum which maintains the 1750 colonial home of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell, the collections, and almost 200 acres of preserved land.

Monterey's Afro-American Community Subject of Historical Society Medeting

Clint Elliot of the Tyringham Historical Society will be the guest speaker at the Monterey Historical Society's September meeting in the Monterey Historical Room of the Monterey Library on Thursday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Elliot has researched the history of the local Afro-American community and recently published a book on the subject, which will be available. Following the program the society will hold a brief annual business meeting.

Monterey Broadband Committee Forming

The Monterey Select Board is looking for people to serve on a Broadband Committee being formed to study the possibilities of expanding broadband coverage in Monterey. Anyone interested in being on the committee is asked to contact the Select Board or Interdepartmental Secretary Melissa Noe at Town Hall. 520-1443, ext. 111.

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Monterey Library Notes

Thanks to all who helped sponsor the 2007 children's Summer Reading Program at the Monterey Library. The Monterey Library Trustees, The Monterey General Store, the Monterey Cultural Council, the Massachusetts Regional Library System, and Waste Management all helped sponsor our activities this summer. We had singing, arts and crafts, and even a magic show, as well as ice creams donated by the General Store that children could earn in the reading program. A special thanks to volunteers Myrna Rosen and Denise Andrus for volunteering their time to set up displays and entertain the kids. Another special thanks to the Monterey Historical Society for allowing us to use their space for the magic show and the women mystery writers program; we would have had to turn some people away without the use of their room.

It's time to also thank publicly the volunteers without whom the library would not be able to function as well. Usage has increased dramatically—visits to the library were up about 30 percent last year, and we're trying to keep up with the increase. Risking forgetting someone, I want to thank them all by name: Kate Basler, who works with the Monterey School and even has had husband Kenn fill in for her as a storyteller; Denise Andrus, who decorates and provides activities for the kids; Carole Clarin, who loves to help organize; Christa Lindsay, who fills in at the desk with often only a moment's notice; Franny Huberman, who has organized our parade presence; Kathleen Purcell, who has sorted books in the basement for the book sale; and of course, I couldn't possibly list all the volunteers who help with the book sale. The Library Trustees (Carol Edelman, Mickey Jervas, Will Marsh Laurie Shaw, Lois Storch, Linda Thorpe) volunteer their time in meetings and helping out with other tasks, especially by running the book sale, which raises money in support of our programs and allows us to purchase things that weren't in the budget but make the library more friendly and attractive.

The volunteers I especially like to work with are children, ranging in age from 7 to 18. Emre Arbac, visiting from Turkey, spent hours cleaning the basement as well as learning about the organization of the library. Grace Mendel has been coming most Monday nights and done many different tasks, including handling the circulation desk and even teaching some of us a short cut on the computer. Kashe Wansor has helped Esther on Thursday afternoons. Marya Makuc has been a big help in processing books. Barbara McAlister has helped her mother with covering books. And another big thank you to the kids who march in the parade for the library. These kids are the future and I'm privileged to be able to teach them the workings of the library, as well as listen to what they have to say about the future of libraries. In this day and age of constantly hearing how kids don't work responsibly and have bad attitudes it's refreshing to see these children enthusiastically learning and doing library work. Of course more than one parent has lamented how it would be nice if their children could clean their rooms in the same way they help out at the library, but I can't do anything about that and (that would include my own child).

Finally, our youth book discussion group will be starting its third year on Monday, October 1, at 7 p.m. Franny Huberman will again lead up this diverse group of kids, from the youngest independent readers to teenagers. We will again be voting on the Massachusetts Children's Book Award—at this point we have 23 of the 25 nominations in the library, so come on in and get a head start! If you are interested in joining this group, which meets once a month, ending with what has become a perennial favorite pizza party at the General Store in May (well worth the price of seven heated discussions of why a certain book was or wasn't good). For more information if you are interested in this group, please call Franny Huberman at 528-5414. We are also thankful to the Monterey Cultural Council for supporting us in this endeavor for the past two years.

— Mark Makuc, Library Director

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Summertime in Monterey: Three Views

Camp Half Moon: 1

I have a reason why I love Camp Half Moon so much. I love camp because there are so many things you can do. I get to play Cherokee and Mahaiwe games. I am a Mahaiwe and my color is red. My favorite things to do are Performing Arts, Pottery, Sailing, and Dive and Slide. The reason I like these activities is that in Performing Arts you get choices such as gymnastics, cheerleading, drama, and dance. I always choose dance. At Pottery you get to do anything you want, and you get to make things with your hands and be creative. I have made a pot, turtle, ball, bird, and a baby turtle. At sailing you get to tip the boat, and I could feel the wind blowing my sweat off and it feels nice and cool. At Dive and Slide you get to go on the bongo and go on the slide and go on the lily pad. I really want to go back next summer because I am enjoying this summer.

Go Camp Half Moon!!!!

— Tavey Kheng (age 9)

The Beach

The beach is a place where you can make sandcastles, or you go in the water and swim. But what I love doing there is making friends and building sandcastles or water runways. I would love to take you to the beach with me and show you what fun things we can do together.

If we are there before 3:00 p.m. we can see the Ice Cream Truck!! There are so many delicious decisions; we don't even know what to choose! Once we have our ice cream, we can go to the big stone chair, lay our towels across the top, relax, lie down, and start to eat the ice cream.

By then our swimsuits will have dried off and we can help more friends make sandcastles and water runways again. After that, we can go in the water for a swim and collect rocks for the rest of the afternoon.

When it is time to go home, we get to keep 5 to 9 rocks each. Or we end up keeping none. Then we wash off our feet in a bucket of water and call my cousins and my brother out of the water so we can get home for dinner.

— Julia Cocco (age 9)

Camp Half Moon: 2

The reason I love Camp Half Moon is because there are so many activities I like to do. Some of the things are arts and crafts, pottery, performing arts, sailing, and swimming. My favorite activity is pottery because I like to do things with my hands and make things that I can use such as pots, masks, and plates. I also think Cherokee and Mahaiwe games are fun to play because you get to run around.

Cherokee and Mahaiwe are both tribes. You are either on the Cherokee side or the Mahaiwe side. I am a Mahaiwe so I play for the Mahaiwe side. The color of the Mahaiwes is red and the color of the Cherokees is blue. You are chosen randomly, but if you have any family members you have to be on the same team as your family member.

One of the games is called Capture the Flag. The way you play is to try not to let the other team catch your flag. The way to stop them from getting your flag is to tap them on the arm and say, Caught!; then they are sent to jail. The way you get your team members out of jail is to go to the other team's jail and touch one of the players on your team and say jail break.

Another game is called the Swim Mate. All you have to do is try to beat the other team by the stroke the head staff tells you to. It is a contest of fast swimming. We play Cherokee and Mahaiwe games every Friday.

I enjoy going to Camp Half Moon because I meet lots of friends and the food is great. This is my second year at Camp Half Moon and it keeps getting better and better. I am pretty sure I am coming back next year.

Go Camp Half Moon!!!!!!

— Sabrina Kheng (age 10)

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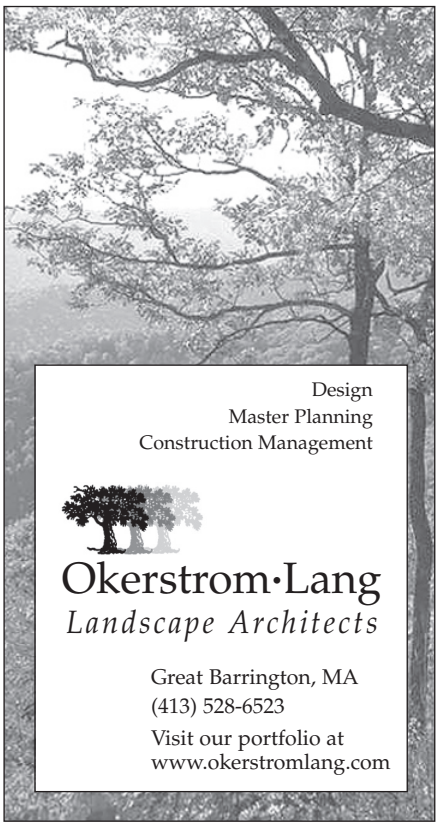

Pan: the Janitor

The school is closed, the children gone.
He sighs, old man hitching up the sagging pants,
fetching the broom to sweep history before him
broken to fine dust and abandoned:
crayon stubs, clips, gum wrapper, a broken Acropolis —
oh, but for a beer!

then on down the lockered hall and into the music room
the instruments alert in silence:
triangles, drums, xylophone, and lo, in the corner:
the Pipes of Pan!

the shadow lengthens, the broom begins its hairy beat,
his feet to tap, his jaw to wag,
till suddenly with a huge joyous shout
he seizes the pipes, sits cross-legged again
(though on a paint-stained table)
to pipe and sway and sway and pipe
the liquid ululating plaint until
his haunt of Mount Hymettus looms through purple haze —
there, dammit, them airy fairy nymphs under the olive trees!

Ho! for prancing and dancing an orgy like the old days,
his fine hoofs capering up the rocks
him leering and winking
and they covering this hot spicy old goat
with fair garlands of fragrance and kisses!

—A .O. Howell

My Butterfly, My Moth

My lover flutters in joy
Circling we spiral toward tree tops
Smiling, laughing, dancing in blue
Our wings catching sunlight
Exploding bursts of white
For all that may see.

At night, my lover is a muted moth
Deep brown and speckled
Blending with bark
Startling in his features
Perfect in his symmetry
Holding we send off soft waves
For all that may feel.

My butterfly, my moth
Immersed in grace
Living fleeting lives
Sharing one eternal life
Transforming and unchanging
For all that may know
I Am.

(Anonymous)

Highland Communities Initiative Conference:

"Exploring Our Common Ground—The Future of the Highlands"

Saving special places requires inspired and dedicated local residents. It is also a great way to meet new friends, neighbors, and become involved in your community. On Saturday, September 15th, the Highland Communities Initiative (HCI) invites those who wish to preserve the rural character and quality of life in the Highlands region to its fourth regional conference, "Exploring Our common Ground: The Future of the Highlands," at the Gateway Regional School in Huntington, Massachusetts. The biennial conference, along with HCI's "My Place is the Highlands" campaign, encourages residents to appreciate their shared natural resources, and hopes to increase individual and community conservation efforts.

The Highlands region contains all the small, rural towns west of the Connecticut River Valley, stretching from the Vermont to the Connecticut borders. Home to only 434,000 people, the Highlands contains a remarkable abundance of unfragmented natural areas, pristine river systems, historic towns, and working farms. Large tracts of forest—some of the largest in southern New England—support the region's exceptional ecological diversity and wildlife habitat. Together with the region's rich tradition of agriculture and forest stewardship, this landscape of outstanding beauty creates a rural character not found elsewhere in Massachusetts.

At this year's HCI conference, government leaders, volunteers, land and business owners, school teachers, and interested members of the community will gather for a wide-ranging discussion about how to become active and remain effective in protecting these local resources. Whether that entails improving the function of town government, or improving the environmental stewardship of your own property, a slate of fifteen different workshops are certain to engage, inform, and inspire.

For those thinking of growing a local business, workshops including "Goods from Your Woods: Growing and Gathering Understory Crops" and "Finding Your Successful Farming Niche" will help you think about agriculture in the Highlands in new and sustainable ways. Sustainability will also be the focus of "Energy Independence for Your Highlands Home," with speakers examining the potential benefits of wind, solar, bio-diesel, and micro-hydro as home energy sources.

Local leaders can hone their skills and gain ideas at workshops about mediating conflicts at public meetings, successfully interacting with real-estate developers, building recreational trails for economic development, and creating innovative conservation programs in local schools.

Award-winning author of *The Ecology of a Cracker Childhood* Janisse Ray will give the keynote address, entitled "Nature, Community, and the Life We Dream."

The conference will run from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., with morning and afternoon sessions. The registration fee is $25, which includes lunch and morning refreshments. Please call if you are interested in volunteering at the conference in return for free admission. Attendees are asked to bring their own coffee cups or mugs to reduce the environmental impact of the conference. All members of the public are welcome.

Space is limited, and pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Conference schedules and registration forms are available at our website, www.highlandcommunities.org, or by calling 413-268-8219

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is a group of neighbors and volunteers working to enhance the quality of life and rural character of our communities. In 2000, Highland residents worked with the Trustees of Reservations to form HCI in order to protect one of New England's quintessential rural landscapes as it braced for the tide of unplanned development sweeping across Massachusetts. Now HCI connects people, towns, and organizations, giving them the tools and support they need to advocate for conservation and community preservation in their own communities and across the region. To find out more, please visit us at www.highlandcommunities.org.

Founded in 1891, The Trustees of Reservations is the nation's oldest regional land trust and nonprofit conservation organization. Supported by more than 43,000 members, the Trustees protect Massachusetts' natural and historic resources for everyone to enjoy. From working farms to historic homesteads, barrier beaches to mountain vistas, the Trustees own, manage, and interpret nearly 25,000 acres on 96 reservations in 70 communities across Massachusetts. The Trustees hold perpetual conservation restrictions on nearly 16,000 acres—more than any other conservation organization in Massachusetts—permanently protecting scenic and natural areas from development. Most recently, the Trustees established a new Pioneer Valley regional office to help meet the increasing land conservation needs and challenges in the area.

Letter from Home
Summertime Picking

There is something about picking blueberries that defines summer. I'm talking about juicy berries fresh off the slightly overgrown plants, still warm from the heat of afternoon sun. Birds fly in, helping themselves to the heaps of fruit; there's more than enough to go around, but from their protesting it seems that perhaps they do not approve of sharing them with pesky pickers. Growing up, I remember my grandparents picking from the patch day in and day out. It is after all a part of the tradition over on New Marlboro Road, a private family patch set back from the road. Pints and pints were sold every summer at the Monterey General Store, and sometimes a few too many delivered at a time.

I was an avid picker when I was younger, and of course had preferred bushes. These were the ones whose branches were weighted down enough that I could easily reach them and at the same time receive a full handful of berries for my effort. One particular bush had only large berries, so big in fact that only about six would fit in my hand, although more would always fit in my mouth. Picking these delicate morsels is somewhat challenging because one must try to get primarily ripe ones, and yet not bruise them. If a hand gently grasps a bunch and rolls every so carefully, then those ready to be picked will usually come off leaving the stems behind, and the greener ones will remain on the branch for tomorrow.

As a child, picking blueberries was a definitive part of summer. My grandparents would pick constantly, carefully and methodically. At the end of each day, Welles would record the number of pints filled and delivered and dollars made, while Kay would make the delivery in her little red car, a trail of smoke coming out the window as she made the two-mile drive to the store. She was very protective of that patch, and it was with a certain amount of pride that I picked alongside them. Beginning at a rather early age I would use my berries in baking projects; muffins have always been a specialty of mine, and blueberry ones more specifically. In fact, over time I even memorized the recipe.

"What's in a name?" So begins one famous line from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. So, then, what's in a berry? Perhaps it is a bit of a cliché, but, staying with this train of thought, there is a great deal in this particular berry. There are so many snapshots calling up precious memories of growing up here in the Berkshires, of my family, of the farm, all wrapped up in those little round blueberries. They are just one of many simple things I overlook every day as I am swept up in the bigger life events. It is reminders like these that I treasure as I spend these six weeks at home doing old, half-forgotten activities.

Soon I will be heading abroad for an incredible and foreign adventure. Maybe I'll take a batch of muffins with me.

— Tarsi Dunlop

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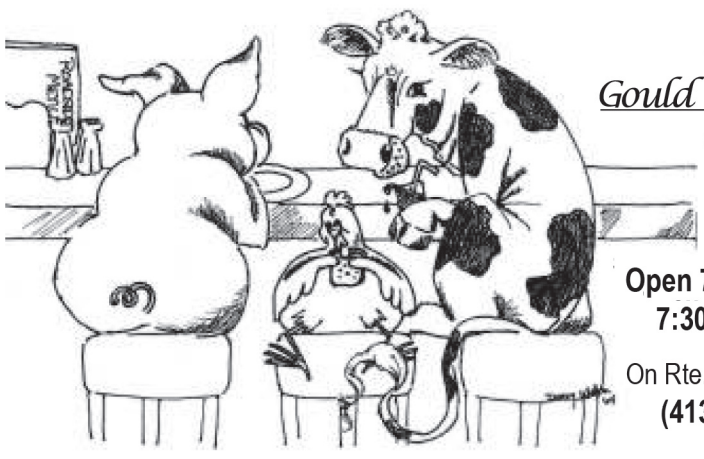

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Recent High School Graduates

Five Monterey students graduated from high school this past June, four of whom are lifelong residents who began their school careers at the Monterey Kindergarten.

Raymond Duryea graduated with honors from Monument Mountain High School. While in school he helped to organize and institute the school's first-ever sanctioned competitive bowling team. Ray plans on attending Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield in the fall, with a major in Business Management.

Annabel Edelman graduated from Lenox Memorial High School. A member of the National Honor Society, she has focused throughout her high school career mainly on the arts, but also volunteered in many other humanitarian efforts. Annabel plans to attend Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, with a major in Studio Art and Theatre.

Dinah Mielke graduated from Mount Everett High School. She was a member of the National Honor Society and an athlete, participating in soccer, basketball, softball, and tennis. She played in the band as well. Dinah will be attending Endicott College in Beverly, Massachusetts, majoring in Communications and Advertising.

Barbara McAlister grew up in Tolland, Massachusetts, where she was home-schooled until 10th grade, when her family moved to Monterey and she began attending Monument Mountain High School where she earned membership in the National Honor Society. She lives with her family on Chestnut Hill Road. In the fall Barbara will attend her grandmother's alma mater, Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, majoring in Liberal Arts, with perhaps, a focus on music as she has played piano since the age of seven.

Emily Shaw graduated from Mount Everett High School, where her activities included soccer, softball, swim team, band, and chorus. Emily has been a familiar face at the beach as one of our lifeguards for the past several years. She plans to attend Roger Williams University, Bristol, Rhode Island, with a major in Elementary Education, and eventually graduate studies in Speech Pathology.

And speaking of lifeguards, although some of them do not live in Monterey, they are definitely a part of Monterey life as Emily's two assistant lifeguards and therefore known to many of us. **Kelly Funk,** a life-long resident of Ashley Falls, graduated from Mount Everett High School. An athlete, she played basketball, ran cross-country, and snowboarded throughout high school. Kelly is off to Bridgewater State College in Bridgewater, Massachusetts to pursue another long-time interest, flying. She will be majoring in Aviation Operations and Management. **Katherine "Katy" Miller,** a native of Mill River, graduated from Monument Mountain High School. Another athlete, she was an outstanding runner whose favorite events were the 400, 800, and cross-country. A favorite memory was attending Western Mass finals. Katy is off to Elim Bible Institute in Lima, New York, to take course work in training servant-leaders for global ministry and marketplace settings.

— Linda Thorpe

Highland Communities Initiative September Events

Birds of a Feather: Resources for Supporting Bird & Wildlife Habitat on Your Wooded Property

September 29, Chesterfield Senior Center, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Free.

Learn about the techniques, programs, and organizations that together can help you manage your wooded property for birds and other wildlife. Speakers will discuss early successional habitat, the Woodcock Initiative, the Ruffed Grouse Society, and the Landowner Incentive Program (LIP). You will also have the opportunity to walk a property recently altered to promote wildlife habitat.

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Paint and Oil Collection

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has scheduled a mini-site paint and used motor oil collection for the 15 towns that form the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative: Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, and West Stockbridge. Only residents of these towns are eligible to participate.

The collection is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. in Lenox at the Department of Public Works. Acceptable materials include unwanted oil paint, stains, paint thinners and turpentine, as well as used motor oil.

Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. Empty or dried up cans of latex paint, as well as empty cans of oil-based paint, stains, and solvents, can be tossed with regular trash.

Pre-registration is required. To make an appointment, or for information, visit cetonline.org, or call 1-800-238-1221, ext. 25, or email shannonm@cetonline.org.

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Sunday, 8:00–1:00 pm

BTF Benefit for Berkshire Taconic's Education Enrichment Initiative

BTF PLAYS! (Berkshire Theatre Festival's year-round education program) will present a special production of Lewis Carroll's children's classic *Alice in Wonderland* as a benefit for Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Education Enrichment Initiative. Adapted for the stage by Eva Le Gallienne and Florida Friebus and directed by E. Gray Simons III, the project involves nearly 100 students from public schools throughout Berkshire County participating as actors, backstage crew, technical support, and usher staff. There will be three performances of *Alice in Wonderland* on BTF's Main Stage: September 7 at 7:30 p.m. and September 8 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

Veteran BTF Artistic Associate E. Gray Simons III directs the production. Simons has worked for ten years as an Artist-in-Residence at Berkshire Theatre Festival. In 2000, he became the artistic head of BTF PLAYS! and since then he has written many original plays, among them *Aesop's Network: Broadcasting Theatrical Fables, The Three Threads of Fate,* and *Nursery Rhyme Café*. He has also adapted many classics, such as *Cinderella, Wind in the Willows,* and *Arabian Nights*.

Berkshire Theatre Festival's education program, BTF PLAYS!, has served Berkshire County students since 1984. Thousands of elementary, middle, and high school students have written their own plays in our school residency program, seen BTF PLAYS! touring productions at their schools, worked on acting and writing skills at our summer drama camps, and participated in one of our after-school classes. BTF PLAYS! celebrates each student's individual voice and creativity.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization that cultivates philanthropy and builds resources that improve the quality of life in Berkshire County, MA; Columbia and northeast Dutchess County, NY; and northwest Litchfield County, CT.

Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation's Education Enrichment Initiative, started in 2003, is a collaborative effort to grow the 13 education enrichment funds of Berkshire County public schools. These funds ensure that public school students have access to truly exceptional educational opportunities not generally included in school budgets. Because they are endowed, the funds are permanent resources for extraordinary learning experiences. Past grants have supported projects such as authors' visits to elementary schools, special needs children participating in art programs, field trips to New York City for 8th graders, drama programs for students of all ages, and many others.

Alice in Wonderland sponsors include the Berkshire Bank Foundation and the *Berkshire Eagle*. Tickets are $10 for children/students and $25 for adults. To purchase tickets, please call 413-298-5576 or visit www.berkshiretheatre.org.

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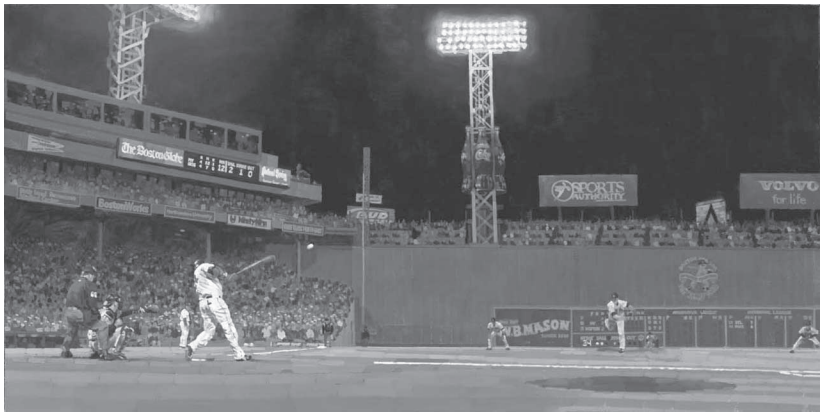

DAVID ORTIZ, 2004

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New Ideas to Save the Planet: Love Miles & Dessert Crops

Maybe you already heard about these ideas; I hadn't. Now I think about them all the time, and already the planet is doing better. Like everybody else (right?) I have become excruciatingly conscious of my carbon footprint, which is not getting any smaller as my foot bones settle and everything else goes to pot. So when I found out about Love Miles I had to ask myself, are these good miles or bad miles? The concept comes from George Monbiot, an Englishman I heard on *DemocracyNow* promoting his new book. On *DemocracyNow* he was so energetic, brilliant, and appealing. He has that accent Americans love to love, and a reassuring wit. But out of his mouth was coming this.

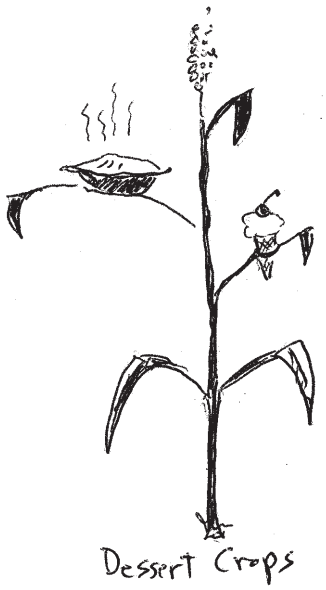
"I am optimistic. It will take a huge change in how we see ourselves, how we lead our lives, but I know we can stop Global Warming. Here is one thing that must change. We think it's fine to get up in the morning and drive the kids to school. This has always been a good thing. Only now we must understand that when we do this simple, good thing, we are killing people on the other side of the globe, and this is not okay. We can't do this any more."

This is radical news, but I was so charmed by the fellow, mainly because he says we can succeed, that I ran out—make that "jumped in the car and drove out"—to buy his book. Whoa! Gulp. I wonder if I killed someone on the other side of the globe … Now I have been reading the book, *Heat: How to Stop the Planet from Burning* (South End Press, Cambridge, Mass., 2007), and I get it that next time I will order the book through the mail and walk to the PO to pick it up. I have to think about the miles I drive.

Monbiot introduces the idea of "love miles," all those miles we drive or fly to see our loved ones who live so far away. I have a pal who just flew to Oregon and back to see his daughter who has moved out there. Definitely love miles, and on a plane, which is the most globally destructive way to go anywhere. But what is a dad to do? *Not* go see his daughter's new life and digs?

As a matter of fact, there was a time a dad would have hesitated to do such a thing. I myself moved to Oregon, decades ago, and my dad did not hop on a plane. He never saw my digs there, but we wrote descriptive letters and talked on the phone now and then, though never for more than three minutes. These were the olden days of long distance phone rates.

Monbiot does not propose that we stop traveling. He just points out this category, love miles, so we can look at how many tons of carbon we are loading into the air in the



name of love, friendship, connection. We heat the planet and drown the low places, murdering the poor in Bangladesh and New Orleans, in the name of love for our far and dear ones. This is a radical picture. Can we be content with writing them a letter, calling them on the cell phone? Should we consider moving, taking the train?

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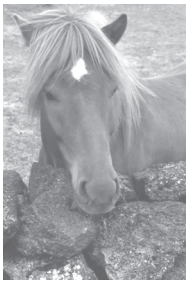

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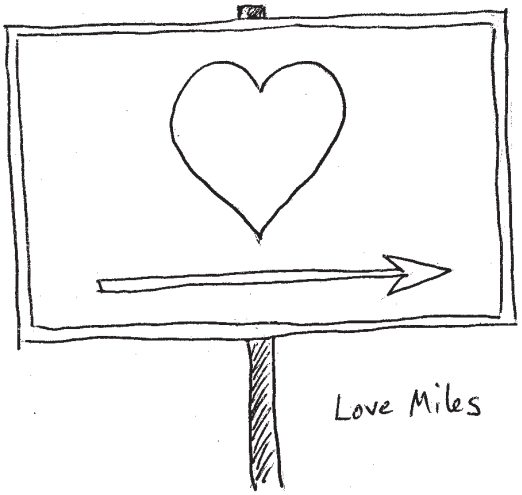
Sam Roberts

While we think about this, let's look at "dessert crops." I got this idea from a little book about the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, not a neutral presentation (*10 Reasons to Abolish the IMF and World Bank*, by Kevin Danaher, Seven Stories Press, New York, 2001). I learned that when loans are made to debtor countries they are done so with conditions attached. These countries must do all they can to produce the hard cash to pay off external debt, so they must plant export crops for wealthy markets in the global north. These "dessert crops" are coffee, tea, cocoa, and bananas, which do nothing to feed the local people.



I think about the love miles I have traveled to India, to adopt our two daughters, and the advice we got there for making gifts to beggars. "Don't give them money," said the nuns from the orphanage we visited, "they will just have to give it to the overlords, the turf-controllers. Take food with you, a few chapattis, and give these. The people may be unhappy because they want rupees, but at least they will be fed and they will live." The beggars have their debts, the bribes they must pay to the police, but these cannot be paid off in food.

How about carbon trading? I think we heard how Al Gore jets all over getting the message out about the Inconvenient Truth and then counteracts his carbon emissions with financial contributions to tree-planting projects and such. Someone counts up the carbon atoms and makes sure Big Al comes out golden. This is something people like Al Gore can do, but we don't all have pockets like his. Somehow we all have to cut our carbon by 90 percent by 2030. George Monbiot says we can do it, and I believe him. I can put myself in that picture because I know I can quit coffee and take the bus to see my daughters in Boston. If only this were enough!

I'll write to Congress to forgive the debts of the developing countries, order my books through the mail, forget bananas and cocoa. I'll lobby for bus service from Monterey to Boston so I don't have to walk to Lee. What else can I do?

Keep asking that question.

— Bonner J. McAllester

Library Recent Acquisitions

DVDs

Disturbia
The Last of the Mohicans (BBC)
Zodiac
Perfume
The Stonecutter
Lives of Others
Fracture
Peaceful Warrior

Adult Fiction

Quickie, James Patterson
Up Close and Dangerous, Linda Howard
Life Room, Jill Bialosky
Septembers of Shiraz, Dalia Sofer
Hatred for Tulips, Richard Lourie

Adult Nonfiction

50 Best Sights in Astronomy, Fred Schaaf
House that George Built, Wilfrid Sheed
Circling My Mother, Mary Gordon
Shadow of the Silk Road, Colin Thubron
Prince of Darkness, Robert Novak

Children's

Global Babies
Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio, Lloyd Alexander
Giant Sea Reptiles of the Dinosaur Age, Caroline Arnold
Beetle Bop, Denise Fleming

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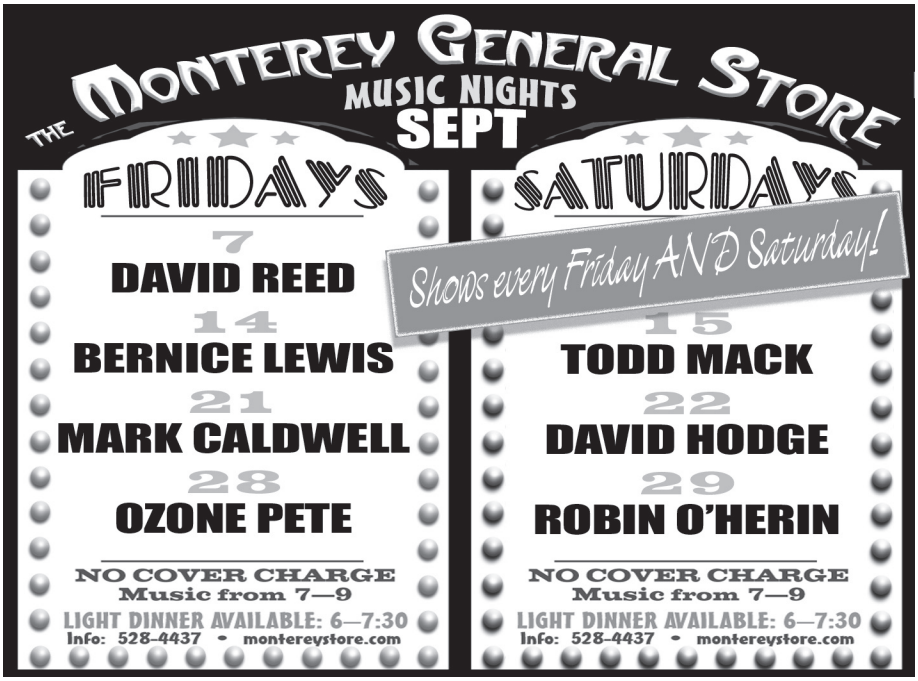
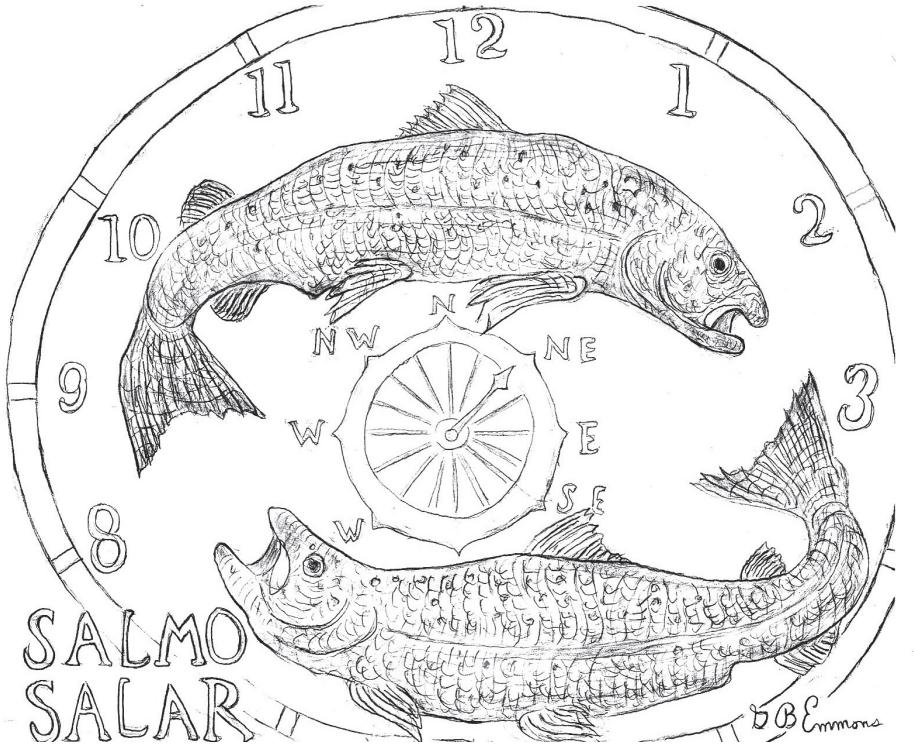


Circle of the Salmon
(The Egg And Eye)

The life cycle of the Atlantic salmon (*Salrno salar*) from early development to maturity and reproduction is emblematic of a series of intersecting circles. Some are small like the egg itself, which is the germinal cell of life. Others are large like the sphere of the sun, whose rays charge the battery of the biological clock that starts ticking from the second of conception. Salmon in the wild normally spawn in autumn and their offspring hatch out in spring. The main question is whether life begins at spawning or at hatching, with significant timing consequences in the bonding to the conditions in the natal pools for their eventual return.

When U.S. Fish and Wildlife brought the first salmon eggs to the Berkshire Hatchery, coincidental with the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding making them partners in this endeavor, that seasonal circle of the salmon's initial life span had been simulated under manmade approximate conditions. The eggs were already "eyed up," an expression of their stage of early development when the eye itself becomes visible in the egg sac. Soon the tail comes out when the sac has been consumed for the nutritional needs of the future fingerling. The eye itself will in time be the lens of a light meter through which solar signals strike the retina, which transmits them via the optic nerve to other organs, allowing the color of the fish to emulate either light or dark habitat in the color of their skin.



When two-year-old salmon are ready to migrate out of fresh water coastal tributaries into the ocean, this natural adaptation process of chemical reaction turns them silver in color and they are called smolts. Other species of sea run trout that similarly adapt are called salties. The salmon soon head northeast in a long elliptical journey of several thousand miles to the coast of Greenland and back. Predation, obstacles, and the length of their hazardous journey extract a great toll on their numbers. The Berkshire Hatchery fish have been marked by a brief immersion in an indelible dye, visible only under florescent light so that they can possibly be identified upon their miraculous return to their starting point to reproduce their kind.

Since the eggs' arrival at our kelt (hatch) house, managers Leroy Thorpe, Phil Gunzinger, and John Doelman have given the salmon dedicated daily care. This summer they were moved outside to large circular pools where solar panels were installed for warmer water to stimulate growth. Now they are six to seven inches long and about ready to be released. For the volunteers and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, as well as for the fish themselves, it might be said that if they close the circle, to quote Winston Churchill, "This was their finest hour!"

As the paths of planets
circle each other in the sky
the end of one cycle on earth
is but the beginning of another.
To spawn their eggs in autumn
is imprinted in a salmon's eye.

— George Emmons

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CET Offers Free Guides on Recycling & Reducing Waste

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) has published two free guides for individuals and communities looking to reduce waste, save money, and reduce their environmental impact.

The first is a step-by-step guide for communities and organizations looking to set up recycling at their next event. The Event Recycling Guide outlines the steps required for a successful recycling effort—from selecting and recruiting a hauler before the event to exactly how and where to place recycling receptacles during the event, to what to do with leftover food after the event. CET recommends that communities set up recycling at events because it will result in reduced litter, as well as reduce overall waste, conserve resources, save energy, and possibly reduce collection and disposal costs. Also, communities may realize a small monetary return by redeeming bottle and can deposits.

The other publication, Resources for Reuse, offers advice to individuals and businesses looking to reduce the amount of waste they generate. The free handout gives guidance on how to reuse and repurpose everything from books, clothes, and couches to kitchen countertops. It outlines simple ways everyone can reduce waste and tips on what to do with all the things you no longer want or need.

Both publications are free and available as pdf downloads on the Publications page of CET's website (www.cetonline.org); call 413-445-4556, ext. 17, for more information or to have a copy mailed. Funding for both of these publications came from USDA, Rural Development.

Sandisfield Arts Center September Events

The Barrington Jazz Quartet

Saturday, September 15, 8pm

Local favorites The Barrington Jazz Quartet love the straight-ahead jazz of the bebop era and beyond, the great American songbook from which many jazz standards have been derived, and the master musicians themselves who have captivated us with their uniqueness and creativity: Monk, Coltrane, Davis, Evans, Parker, Corea, to name just a few. Come and see your neighbors (and some area doctors!) Billy Barkin, Chet Cahill, Joe Gold, and Brian Burke perform. Tickets are $20.

Eric Clarke, Printmaker

Saturday, September 15, in the Gallery (open all day)

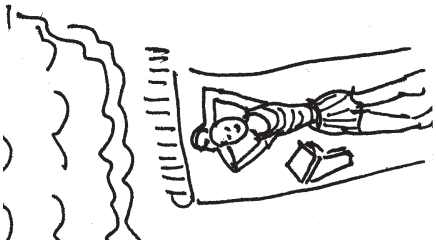
Eric Clarke studied Illustration at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, NY, and has shown his work in Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Manhattan, Boston, and western Massachusetts. He currently works in mixed media such as ink, crayon, acrylic, and printmaking. Admission is free.

Garden Preparation for Winter

Saturday, September 22nd, 9 a.m.–Noon

Dolphin Gardens owner and Monterey resident Jaime Sotis will give a workshop on how to prepare your gardens for the cold, harsh Berkshire winters. The fee is$25 per person; there must be a minimum of 8 participants. RSVP by September 15 to 413-258-4100.

Call 413-258-4100 for more information or to reserve for an event, or visit www.sandisfieldartscenter.org. The Sandisfield Arts center is located at 5 Hammertown Road (off Rte 57), Sandisfield.



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SEPT 15, 4:30 PM • MANHATTAN STRING QUARTET. Eric Lewis, violin; Calvin Wiersma, violin; John Dexter, viola; Chris Finckel, cello. *"A national treasure" —the Boston Globe*

SEPT 29, 4:30 PM • A LATE AFTERNOON OF GREAT JAZZ, FINE WINES AND FOOD. Andrew Sterman, sax & Mick Rossi, piano (Philip Glass Ensemble); Richard Vitale, trumpet; Mary Ann McSweeney, bass. Concert followed by a wine tasting (Domaney's Fine Wines) and food tasting (Old Inn On The Green, *"Best in the Berkshires" —Zagat*)

OCT 6, 4:30 PM • AWARD-WINNING AUTHORS Hosted by Mitchel Levitas of *The New York Times*. Cathleen Schine, Amity Shlaes, and Thomas Fleming will discuss their latest published works.

Receptions with the artists follow in the Meeting House Gallery

At the Meeting House on the village green,
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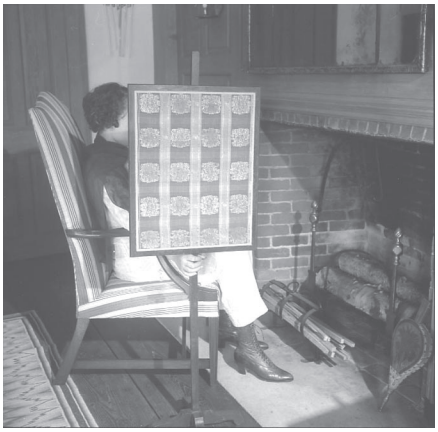

Photo Exhibit at Bidwell House

The Bidwell House Museum is presenting "More Impressions of the Bidwell House Museum," a photographic exhibit by Joánna Jennings opening on August 25th and running to Columbus Day. Ms. Jennings, a prize-winning photographer, has been welcomed back by popular demand following the success of her first exhibit at the museum in 2005.

Ms. Jennings' body of work is predominately self-portraiture. Double-exposure, long-term exposure, and serial imagery are a few of the techniques she employs; life, death and rebirth, autobiography, and narrative are frequent themes she explores.

For this exhibit, Ms. Jennings worked closely with several high school interns at the museum and staff members to reconstruct a visual narrative based on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century oral traditions inspired in part by interpretive tours. The unmistakable thread woven through the network of images is the role of women, which Ms. Jennings captures as she turns her lens to the hearth and other interior spaces.

For more information about the artist visit www.joannajennings.com.

The Bidwell House Museum is a New England heritage landmark that uses the history of its land, house and collections to re-imagine, re-create, and restore and research colonial and early American life in Western Massachusetts. For more information about the Bidwell House Museum, call 413-528-6888 or visit the web site www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Contributors

We thank the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual funding appeal. Your support makes it possible for us to continue publishing. We know you receive requests from many worthy organizations for financial help and are grateful that you include the *Monterey News* in your giving.

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Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m., Town Offices.

Wednesday Night Farmers' Market: 4-7 p.m., sponsored by Community Health Programs, at The Nutrition Center, 94 West Avenue, Great Barrington. Fresh local and organic produce from local farms including Farm Girl Farm, Equinox Farm and Berkshire Best; organic meat from Leahy Farm; eggs from the Stantons; cheese from Gould Farm; chèvre from Rawson Brook Farm; bread from Berkshire Mountain Bakery; and shrubs from Brooks Farm. Call 413-528-0457 for more information.

Every Friday & Saturday in September: Music nights at Monterey General Store. See ad, p. 19.

Saturday, September 1: I Love Monterey Day: parade, book sale, picnic lunch and live music, green tours. Activities begin at 9 a.m.

Monday, September 3: Labor Day, Town Hall, Library closed.

Thursday, September 6: Talk by Clint Elliot on Monterey's Afro-American community, 7 p.m., Historical Room, Monterey Library. See p. 10.

Friday, September 7: Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. See p. 6.

Saturday, September 8: Guided historic woodlands walk through Bidwell House forests on the Royal Hemlock Road, led by Dr. Richard Greene (two to three hours), 10 a.m. Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey.

Tuesday, September 11 (and every second Tuesday): Monterey Blue Grass Jam, 6–8:30 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Open to all skill levels; for information call Jeff Litishin, 413-528-1343.

Thursday, September 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic, 2 p.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, September 15:

Highland Communities Initiative Regional Conference: "Exploring Our Common Ground—The Future of the Highlands," 8:30 a.m.–3 p.m., Gateway Regional School in Huntington, MA. See p. 14.

The Barrington Jazz Quartet, 8 p.m., Sandisfield Arts Center. $20; call 413-258-4100 for information or reservations. See p. 21.

Exhibit by Eric Clarke, Printmaker, all day, Sandisfield Arts Center.

Tuesday, September 18: Free Health Screening, CHP, 10 a.m., Town Hall Meeting Room.

Saturday, September 22:

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Peter Amidon. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults $6, children $3. Information 528-9385.

Garden Preparation for Winter Workshop led by Jaime Sotis, 9 a.m.–Noon, Sandisfield Arts Center. $25; call 413-258-4100 for information or reservations. See p. 21.

Saturday, September 29:

Workshop on Fire: From the Hearth to the Forge, featuring Del Martin of Monterey and his father (two hours), 10 a.m., Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road, Monterey.

George Emmons will lead a historic walk to the First Meetinghouse site of the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell and outline significance of DAR designated historic site (one hour), 1 p.m., Bidwell House Museum.

Birds of a Feather: Resources for Supporting Bird & Wildlife Habitat on Your Wooded Property, 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m., Chesterfield Senior Center. Free. See p. 16.

The Observer
July 26–August 25

High temp. (8/3)	87°
Low temp. (8/19)	43°
Avg. high temp.	76.2°
Avg. low temp.	54.7°
Avg. temp.	65.5°
Total rainfall	3.03 in.

Precipitation occurred on 16 days.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Pat Arnow, p. 21; Rachel Arnow, p. 13;
George Emmons, p. 20; Bonner McAllester, pp. 18, 19;
Josefine Persson, p. 10.

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